THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN

APPOMATTOX AND BUCKINGHAM TIMES Established 1892
SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIAN—Established 1902
(Consolidated October 1, 1909)
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ISSUED WEEKLY THURSDAY MORNINGS
At Appomattox, Va.

W. MARLIN WYANT, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the Postoffice at Appomattox, Va., as second-class matter under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Communications to THE TIMES VIRGINIAN must be accompanied by name and address of writer. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by postage.

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FRENCH PREDICT VICTORY SOON

Capitulation of Germans Will Quickly Follow Closing of the Frontiers.

CRY FORWARD TO BERLIN

Berlin Meets Blockade With Defiance; German Labor Begs U. S. to Act. Main Problem Is to Get Coal Into France From Pits.

Duesseldorf.—The French cordon was closed around the Ruhr and no coal can now enter uncoupled Germany. With that action, which was dictated from Paris rather sooner than those in charge of the operations on the spot desired, the struggle has entered a new phase.

The French here declare that the action has been taken "because of the attitude shown by the German Government and not as a final measure, but simply as a step which may be, if necessary, followed by other penalties." Those, therefore, who are looking for an early settlement of this business must be disappointed. The oft-repeated determination of the French to go on and on to success, wherever that may lead them, is now definitely fixed. They cannot retreat, and in dignity there is only one way out, they say, should circumstances within the Ruhr compel retreat, and that way is forward to Berlin.

Here the difficulties of the situation are probably far more apparent than in Paris. In spite of the loafing policy of the miners coal has begun piling up in big quantities at the pit heads. There is no outlet for it into France owing to the railroad men's strike. Now, by closing the eastern border of the district there will be no way out there. If coal continues to be dug it must pile up slowly but certainly, after the local needs have been satisfied, until work becomes almost impossible.

Toward this possibility the French attitude is coldly logical and perfectly firm. When the situation was laid before one authority here he replied:

"Well, that is not our affair. It is a matter for miners and railroad men to settle between themselves."

This cold firmness is evident in all the French are doing. Expulsions have now reached over 150 and they are going on. The demand was repeated for four mines in the Rockinghausen district to begin delivery of coal to France, and on the refusal of two of them they were arrested and conducted over the northern frontier district. Such a course is not directly helping to get any coal, but with the people in the state of mind and spirit they are the French are convinced that this severe action will eventually succeed.

The railroad situation continues to be the strongest force in favor of the Germans. But even that may be in part, it is hoped, beaten in time. French mechanics have re-established direct service between Paris and Coblenz and Paris and Mayence.

Between these successes and bringing up of sufficient food for the whole district, should the German government decide to retaliate to the measures excluding coal by refusing on their side to send food into the district, there is an enormous difference.

Nevertheless, apparently a hopeful spirit prevails in high French quarters that this latest measure will bring capitulation within a week or ten days.

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